

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Cade Rensink

President, Kansas Section, SRM

Before I sat down to write this report, I took some time to look back through the KSSRM archives at all those who had held this position before me. As I scrolled through the names, I felt extremely humble to be on the same list as these folks. The names that I recognized (and most likely even the ones that I didn't), in my opinion, signify some of the premier leaders in rangeland management. These people have not only made significant contributions to grassland stewardship in Kansas, but across the country.

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of the Kansas Section this year. While I certainly don't feel that I belong on the same list as those mentioned previously, I will be ever grateful for the confidence and trust you had in me to lead this organization. As the old saying goes "To be successful, you surround yourself with people that are better than you", I had a great group of officers and directors to help light the path. Their valuable input and guidance has been much appreciated.

In taking on this responsibility, my hopes were that, in some small way, I could help advance our mission of promoting the professional development of our members, education of the public, and, ultimately, the stewardship of our rangeland resources. I think we did some good things year starting with membership retention. National membership has been trending downward, but Kansas continues to remain steady. As we look to the future of SRM, we need to ask ourselves what it is that SRM offers which members can't find anywhere else. What is it we can do in a way that no else can? I think once we firmly answer these questions we will have something to capitalize on, to increase membership and make our organization stronger.

This year we also made a big investment in education. In 2011, KSSRM offered nearly \$2000 in scholarships to the adult range schools and the national SRM meeting. In addition, we donated \$1000 towards a project by the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition to restock the inventory of

grazing sticks. We joined nine other entities in this collaborative effort and enabled the KGLC to create ample supply of sticks for use in the three different regions of Kansas.

For those that were not able to attend the annual meeting in Salina back in October, you missed a good one. I would encourage you to read through the minutes as we got a lot accomplished. One particular item that I'm excited about is that we gave the nod to Livia and her crew at K-State to give our website a makeover. It's no secret that we're in a technology-driven world and, as much as I've tried to fight it, the Internet has become THE WAY to communicate and disseminate information. Following the business meeting, we had an exceptional program on drought impact and mitigation. Our speakers from K-State and the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, NE provided some very valuable tools and resources for ranch planning. Again, KSSRM took the lead with this program and has since spawned several other drought meetings across the state held by other organizations.

It's hard to believe that 2011 is coming to a close. In light of this, don't think your duties are done. We still have elections to tend to. Please look through the bios in this Bluestem Bulletin and select those individuals that you want to lead us in the coming years. Your diligent voting in the past has positioned us well for the next couple of years with Jordge and Chris coming to the helm. We have a strong ballot this year and I believe all of the candidates are worthy of your vote.

In closing, I want to thank you again for this opportunity. It has been one great ride! I wish you all a very merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in Wichita on January 26 for our winter meeting.

On the Inside

- Minutes Section Meeting
- Candidate Bios for Election
- Ballot for Members

Kansas Section-Society for Range Management

**KANSAS SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
BOX 303 - MANHATTAN, KS 66505**

<http://ks.rangelands.org>

Cade Rensink	President
Jordge LaFantasie	First Vice-President
Chris Tecklenburg	2nd Vice-President
Kevin Price	Director
Allen Casey	Director
Jamie Holopirek	Director
Glenn Brunkow	Director
Alex Miller	Secretary-Treasurer
John Henry	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

October 27, 2011 Minutes of the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM)

The Fall meeting of the Kansas Section for the SRM was called to order by president Cade Rensink @ K-State Salina. Cade then had everyone go around the room and introduce themselves. He then read several thank you notes that were received from those who attended the Ag Agents Tour that was sponsored in part by the Kansas Section.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed via e-mail by the group. It was moved to accept the minutes, seconded, and the motion passed. Next was the treasurer's report read by Treasurer Alex Miller. The current balance is \$5312.62. Doug Spencer moved to accept the report as read, it was seconded and the motion passed.

Past president John Henry said he is in the process of setting up ballots for next year's officers. The ballots will be sent out by newsletter and must be returned by November 30th, 2011.

In other reports, Doug Spencer reported \$14,980.77 in the Range Youth Camp account.

President Rensink then reported on an initiative by the National SRM to recoup some of the membership lost in the past year. Some discussion followed on Kansas Section members who have not renewed their membership. Cade encouraged those in attendance to recruit people they knew interested in rangelands to join the Kansas Section.

The group then discussed awards nominations for the 'Trail Boss' and the 'Excellence in Grazing' awards. Cade said the committee is actively seeking nominations.

Livia Olsen discussed some possible changes that could be made to the Sections state website. She would like to update the site to make it more modern and accessible. She said she had a graphics designer interested in coming up with ideas. It was decided that the board would review the changes and approve the final design.

Walt Fick gave a report on the 2011 East and West adult range schools. He said that 33 participants attended the East school and 17 attended the west school. Discussion then followed about sponsoring 4 students who attended from the universities for a total of \$600 in scholarships.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I would encourage you to join or renew your membership with SRM. Forms are available at <http://www.rangelands.org> or if you have questions e-mail srm@allenpress.com or call (800) 627-0326.

Members or other readers are encouraged to submit information to include in the Bluestem Bulletin. Announcements regarding meetings, field days, etc. are welcome. If you would like to write an article related to rangeland management please do so and send it to me at whfick@ksu.edu.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin: March 1, 2012

Cont'd on next page

Minutes Continued

Cade then discussed the proceedings of the National Advisory Council. They discussed revising the annual meeting handbook and posting the meeting minutes on the website for all members to view online.

Calvin Adams reported on the Ranch and Range Management Internship. He said they had three interns this summer that went to Ted Alexanders, Lynn Meyers (of Nebraska), and Ted Turner's Z-Bar ranch in Barber County. Calvin said that he is in the process of recruiting 5-6 interns for next summer. More information on this program can be found on the website ksranchinstitute.org.

Old Business

Doug Spencer reported on the potential of an annual Range Youth Camp Scholarship. Discussion followed. For several years the camp has had variable numbers of students attending range youth camp on an annual basis. In recent years, the camp fund has been used to reimburse college student registration fees to the annual SRM meeting. Due to the inconsistent registration income as well as the annual expense for registrations recently incurred, it was decided by the group to not pursue a college scholarship with the range youth camp account but to continue the support of the annual meeting registration fees.

Kevin Price reported on the SRM poster committee.

Jorge Lafantasia said that she has someone interested in doing some original artwork for the Section. They would like some ideas for the artwork. Jessica Casey volunteered to help with the committee.

Carol Blocksome reported that the Oklahoma Section will not be needing any help with the 2013 Annual Convention in Oklahoma City.

Cade talked about the board of directors' decision to contribute \$1000 to KGLC for their grazing stick project. Tim Christian from the KGLC said that they appreciated the contribution. He said they had 9 contributors for a total of \$8800. He said the money went to create grazing sticks for the Tallgrass, Midgrass, Shortgrass, and Tame grasslands in Kansas.

New Business

President Rensink discussed the future of KSSRM annual meetings. According to the by-laws the group should give some opportunities for posters and presentations. Discussion followed on ways to

incorporate this into the meeting.

Jorge L. said that she has some students who would like to attend this year's meeting in Spokane, Washington. In years past the group has reimbursed students for their registration fees. Fort Hays will likely have 4 undergrads and one graduate student attending. There is also a chance 2 or 3 K-State students will be attending the meetings. Keith Harmony moved to offer scholarships to the SRM annual meeting with a cap of \$1000. The motion was seconded and passed by group vote. Registrations must be sent to Doug Spencer for reimbursement from the RYC account.

A motion was made to allow Livia Olsen the opportunity to make changes to the SRM website. The Board of Directors will review the website.

David Kraft made a motion to pay KGLC for \$600 for 4 scholarships for the 2011 Adult Range Schools. The motion was seconded and was passed by the group.

John Henry moved to transfer \$500 from the Range Youth Camp fund to the general fund to help cover the cost of the grazing sticks. The motion on the floor was then seconded and was passed by vote.

Cade then asked for a motion for adjournment. Doug Spencer made the motion, it was seconded by Calvin Adams, and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be January 26th, 2012 at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita.

Respectfully Submitted
Alex Miller,
Secretary/Treasurer



President Cade Rensink introducing Dr. Kevin Price at Kansas Section, SRM meeting in Salina, KS.

SRM Bios for 2011 Elections

2nd VP

Dusty Tacha

I was born and raised in Oakley, KS. I attended Fort Hays State University, earning Bachelor (2006) and Master (2009) degrees in biology with emphasis in grassland ecology and range science. My graduate thesis research was an in depth study of the effects of black-tailed prairie dog on shortgrass vegetation in western Kansas. While attending college, I worked three summers as a Natural Resources Conservation Service student trainee in Ness City, Eureka, and Hutchinson. I worked an additional three summers for a private company conducting the National Resources Inventory (NRI) on rangeland in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado, which was contracted out by NRCS in those states. Also in the private sector, I conducted rangeland inventories and grazing plan reviews for a carbon credit program, which allowed me exposure to a wide diversity of rangeland landscapes in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Montana. After graduation with my Master Degree in 2009, I went to work for NRCS in Hugoton, KS, where I worked on rangeland and cropland resource concerns from April 2009 – April 2010. I am currently a NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist in Winfield, KS. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and the outdoors in general. I love my job, helping Kansas producers with our state's rangeland resource issues as well as the unique interrelationships between land and people, considering our reliance and many uses of this wonderful resource. I believe that an active and energized SRM chapter is vital to spreading awareness of rangeland issues and proper management techniques of our state's grassland resource to producers, youth, and the general public, as well as a healthy exchange of scientific information. I look forward to the privilege of serving the Kansas Chapter, SRM should I be elected.

Will Boyer

Will Boyer works in Northeast Kansas as an Extension Watershed Specialist for K-State Research and Extension. His work focuses on education of livestock producers about management to protect water quality. This includes presentations at local livestock meetings and one-on-one assistance with water development, livestock distribution, winter feeding practices, and grass buffer systems. Will's work experience also includes Extension Assistant for the Kansas Grazingland Water Quality Education Program, Manager of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District in the Nebraska Sandhills, and ranching. Will has a Bachelors Degree in Biology from Chadron State College and a Masters Degree in Environmental Planning and Management from Kansas State University.

Board of Directors

Kevin Parsons

Kevin was born in 1983 and grew up near the town of Winfield in South Central Kansas where he spent most of his time hunting, fishing, farming, and helping take care of his family's cattle herd. After high school, Kevin attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater Oklahoma. He was a member of the Oklahoma chapter of the Society for Range Management and competed in the under graduate range management exams in 2007 and 2008. His team placed 4th in 2007. While in college Kevin lived and worked at the OSU Rangeland Research Station in Stillwater Oklahoma. At the Research station, Kevin was in charge of maintaining prescribed fire equipment, building cattle pens, and caring for 150 head of first calf heifers. He was also involved in the vegetation data collection for

patch burn patch grazing research done at OSU. Kevin graduated From OSU in May of 2008 with a BS degree in Natural Resources Ecology and Management; he specialized in Range Management. After college, Kevin went back to work on his family's farm until hiring on with the NRCS in September of 2009. Kevin currently works for the NRCS in Eureka, Kansas, as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Kevin currently lives outside of Eureka spending most of his free time hunting, fishing, and touring the prairie.

Myra Richardson

Hello to the Kansas Section, and thank you for the opportunity to run for the Board of Directors. I have been a member of the Society for Range Management since 2004, and currently hold membership with both the Kansas and Nebraska Sections. I grew up on a small farming/ranching operation in Holt County, Nebraska just on the northern edge of the Nebraska Sandhills. I became interested in rangelands after being introduced to range judging and the Nebraska Envirothon in high school. I competed in range judging events throughout high school, including participating in the National Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma and the Old West Regional Range Judging Contest, and I also attended Range Camp. These experiences really got me interested in range management; especially in the plants! I attended college at Chadron State College in western Nebraska, where I majored in Range Management and minored in Plant Science. While in college, I had the opportunity to participate in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and after graduation I went to work for NRCS as a Range Management Specialist in Ogallala, NE. In 2006, I married a military man, and shortly afterward moved to northeast Kansas, where I worked for the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance as their Grazing Lands Coordinator. When the TLA grant expired at the end of 2009, I came back to NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Marysville, Kansas. My current position deals with administering federal programs on both rangeland and cropland, and I am enjoying the chance to expand my conservation knowledge. I currently live in Manhattan with my husband, Joshua, and when I am not messing around with plants, I am working on my 1967 Camaro. I am excited for the opportunity to get more involved with the Kansas SRM, and thanks again to the Section for considering me as a candidate for the Board.

Toni Flax

My name is Toni Flax, I grew up on a Farm/Ranch in South Central KS near Lake City. After graduating from Medicine Lodge High School I attend Pratt Community College and Fort Hays State University. I received a Bachelors of Science Degree in Biology with the emphasis being Rangeland Management. I have been working for Kansas NRCS as a Rangeland Management Specialist for 11 years. I currently cover 12 counties in the North West/North Central part of the state. I have been involved with KS SRM Range Youth Camp for 14 years. My husband Jason, our two daughters and I currently reside in Hill City, Ks.

Art Hastert

Member of Society of Range Management since 1979. Earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, 1978. Earned a Master of Science Degree in Range Management, Division of Agronomy, Kansas State University, 1982. Started career in the Natural Resources Conservation Service as Range Conservationist, 1983 to 1987. Worked as District Conservationist in NRCS, 1987 to 1994. Worked as a Hydrologist for the State of Kansas Board of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, 1991. Became a Soil Conservationist for NRCS in 1991 and currently serve in that position. Worked in Morris, Crawford, Clark, and Sherman counties. Presently in Osage County. Served as Range Youth Camp chairperson in 1994, camp counselor for other years.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 8-12	American Forage & Grassland Council, Louisville, KY
Jan 10	Kansas Grazing Land Coalition Board Meeting, McPherson, KS
Jan 21	Kansas Winter Grazing Conference, Managing Drought Risk on the Ranch, Emporia, KS
Jan 26	Kansas Section, Society for Range Management Meeting, Wichita, KS
Jan 26-27	Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS
Jan 28 - Feb 2	Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA
Feb 22	Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation, Adaptive Management and Climate Change, Dr. Joel Brown, Jornada Experimental Range, Coldwater, KS
Feb 28	SW Missouri Spring Forage Conference, Springfield, MO